



**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

December 11, 1961

Dear Ros:

Thank you for your letter of 4 December enclosing a memorandum on the "Functions and Composition of the United States Intelligence Board" prepared by your staff.

I have studied this matter most carefully and have signed and sent to the President today the slightly modified version, a copy of which is attached.

The principal changes are in paragraph 2 reflecting the changes which I have already made in assuming the Chairmanship of the USIB as the representative of the President and naming the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence as the CIA member. The only other change is that I believe the FBI should retain membership.

Sincerely,

John A. McCone  
Director

Hon. Roswell Gilpatric  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Washington, D. C.



**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**SUBJECT:** Functions and Composition of the United States  
Intelligence Board

The United States Intelligence Board (USIB), under the Chairmanship of the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI), is presently composed of six Department of Defense representatives and single representatives from the Department of State, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Atomic Energy Commission. The Chairman is authorized by National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 1 to invite the chief of any other department or agency to meet with USIB when matters within the purview of his respective department or agency are to be discussed.

As part of my preliminary review of the management of national intelligence activities, I have studied carefully the functions, procedures, and composition of USIB. Based on this review, I have become convinced that certain major changes in the membership are necessary. As your representative on the national level for intelligence policy matters, the Director of Central Intelligence, as Chairman of USIB, should not also represent the Central Intelligence Agency. Therefore, in assuming the Chairmanship of the USIB on November 30, 1961, I designated the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence as the CIA member. Further, only through a reduction in its membership with an attendant change in its operating procedures can USIB be redirected to provide the type of responsive staff assistance required by you, the National Security Council, and myself as DCI.

The questions of whom should be represented on USIB and of the proper role of USIB in the national intelligence community are not new. They have been discussed and analyzed many times. Most recently, the Joint Study Group on Foreign Intelligence Activities of the United States

Government recommended in its report of last year that USIB membership be reduced to four principals, consisting of the Director of Central Intelligence (Chairman), a representative of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with ad hoc representation from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Atomic Energy Commission.

I wholeheartedly support the concept of this recommendation which calls for a major reduction in USIB membership in order to make it the principal mechanism for assisting the DCI in coordinating and managing all United States foreign intelligence activities.

However, in the opinion of the Secretary of Defense it is neither necessary nor desirable to have two principal Department of Defense (DoD) representatives on USIB, one purporting to represent the Secretary of Defense and the other the Joint Chiefs of Staff. With the establishment of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), the Director, DIA, can represent both the Secretary and the Joint Chiefs of Staff as principal DoD representative. On the other hand, both the Secretary of Defense and I believe that the Director, National Security Agency (NSA), should continue to retain membership on USIB in light of his unique responsibilities in the critical signals intelligence area.

In this role, the Director, NSA, would continue to participate in USIB meetings when matters concerning communications security, communications intelligence and electronics intelligence are discussed.

When the Joint Study Group recommendations were approved, it was stipulated that the reduction in USIB membership should be made in phase with implementation of other Joint Study Group recommendations applicable to DoD. The Secretary of Defense has ordered a number of actions to implement approved Joint Study Group recommendations affecting his department. Principal among these has been the establishment of DIA to which will be transferred the majority of DoD intelligence production resources. Therefore both Secretary McNamara and I believe that the USIB representation of the military departments and the Joint Staff can be terminated in the very near future.

In addition, the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission has agreed that AEC participation is required only when matters falling within its cognizance are discussed. On the other hand, I feel that the internal

security functions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are so closely related to foreign intelligence activities that the FBI should retain membership on USIB.

It is therefore proposed that effective January 2, 1962, the USIB membership of the following be terminated:

- (1) The Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff.
- (2) The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army.
- (3) The Assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Intelligence, Department of the Navy.
- (4) The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force.
- (5) A representative of the Atomic Energy Commission.

With this change, USIB would be composed of the following, each of whom is now serving on the Board:

- (1) The Director of Central Intelligence, Chairman.
- (2) The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, Member.
- (3) The Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State.
- (4) The Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.
- (5) The Director of the National Security Agency.
- (6) A Representative of the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

When USIB considers matters of concern to other executive departments, agencies, and administrations, I will invite their representatives to meet with the Board.

Your approval is requested.

John A. McCone  
Director of Central Intelligence

APPROVED:

---